

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/871,182

Examiner

Anand Bhatnagar

Applicant(s)

LEFLER ET AL.

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/03/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-10 and 21-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05/31/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 11/03/04 has been entered and made of record.
2. Applicant has canceled claims 1-6 and 11-20. Claims 7-9 have been amended and claims 21-39 are new.
3. Applicant's arguments, see amendment remarks pages 13-17, filed 11/03/04, with respect to claims 21-39 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 7-10 and 21-39 are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The closest prior art of Gur et al. discloses to detect the abnormal regions (masses or microcalcifications) in a radiograph by blob analysis and use statistical analysis to determine the false positive blobs and/or noise in the image. Regarding claims 21, 34, 35, 36, and 39, Gur et al. does not teach the feature of "second spatially fixed areas of each image in said time sequence of images to veto a detection of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said time sequence of images by selecting in said reference image one or more veto cells collectively comprising a veto zone in which any detection in said veto zone of a statistically significant change in one or more predetermined features in said time sequence of images is used to

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disable any detection of a statistically significant change in said one or more predetermined features in said time sequence of images in said detection zone," that, in combination with the other claim limitations.

6. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

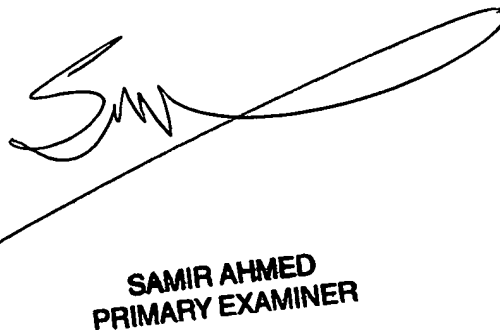
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is (571) 272-7416, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is (571) 272-7414, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.

AB

Anand Bhatnagar

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April 4, 2005



**SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER**